

OTTER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY

QUARTER 1
October 2025



PRINCIPAL'S POINTS

We have had a fantastic first quarter and attendance was wonderful at our school events: Meet and Greet, Back to School Night, ML Parent Morning Chat, and conferences. I hope to see just as many families at our Fall Festival on October 24th! If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, please do so. It's the perfect time to touch base and see how your child is doing and how you can assist from home. First quarter report cards will be sent home Friday, October 17th.

HHIE is proud to be a Title I School. This amazing opportunity offers us so many wonderful programs and support for our students and families. In accordance with the Parents Right-to-Know requirement under Every Student Succeeds Act, it is my duty to notify every parent or guardian of a student attending a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher to include the following:

- if the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- if the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which the state qualifications and licensing criteria are waived;
- the teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline; and
- whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.
- Notification if your student has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the applicable state certification for licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

If you need any additional information, please reach out to me directly. The HHIE Leadership Team is very proud of our teachers, and we know they are prepared to give your child a high quality education.

Mrs. Brockway

SCHOOL CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- Full day for students
- No school for students
- First day back for students
- Early Dismissal for students
- Weather make-up day, if needed
- In-service day for school staff

*** 10% OFF ***
YEARBOOK SALE



PRE-ORDER THE 2025-2026
HHIE YEARBOOK

<https://tinyurl.com/2526HHIEYB>

**Save
The
Date**

PTO Meetings @ 8am
11/6, 12/4, 2/5,
3/5, 4/2, 5/7

SIC Meetings @8am
10/30, 1/29, 2/26
3/26, 4/30

No School Days
11/4 & 11/11



Attendance

Students are allowed **eight 'parent note'** excused days per year. These are times when your student does not feel well enough to come to school but probably does not need to see a **doctor**.

If your student sees a doctor, the absence is marked as **medical**. Other **excused** absences are religious holidays and attending funeral services. Please **use** our attendance email

hhiesattendance@beaufort.k12.sc.us

to communicate **ANY** time your student is out. You may also send medical notes to this email. Travel or vacations are marked as **unexcused** absences. If a student has **3** unexcused absences **in a row**, or **5 total**, they will be marked as truant.



Notes from Social Worker & School Counselors

Bedtimes: Please help your student be successful in school by **getting a good night's sleep**. Elementary age children should get 8-10 hours of uninterrupted sleep. We suggest a bedtime of 7:30 pm for younger students and no later than 9 pm for 5th graders. Students should not have televisions, cell phones or electronic devices in the room where they sleep. Remember you are developing **good habits** for middle school and beyond.



Back Pack Buddies: We have a **program** in the school where a bag of **food** items is sent home every Friday. The food items are provided by the **Hunger Coalition of the Lowcountry**. If you are interested in this for your student.

For more information contact
denise.friday@beaufort.k12.sc.us.

Lost & Found

Located at our front office.

There are already many items in the lost and found, mostly sweaters and sweatshirts. Please **LABEL** your students' items and come to the school to check the lost and found if your student cannot do this on their own. We donate several large garbage bags of items each semester.



HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY'S
BOOK-O-WEEN
PARADE

October 31, 2025
8:00 am

Come join us to wave to students dressed up as their favorite book character!



Notes from Mrs. Ryman Assistant Principal

cassandra.ryman@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Field Trips–MTSS–Wellness–Carline

YELLOW CAR LINE REMINDERS



The yellow car line is for **1st grade and 2nd grade**. All other grades should be utilizing the red car line (unless students have siblings 1st or 2nd grade). This will help to keep traffic moving and off the main roads. During arrival, please ensure you are **utilizing the two lanes and the zipper method at the sign**. Please **pull all the way up** to the first Unloading Zone sign. Parents should remain in the vehicle and students should exit on the **passenger side**. Please have students ready to **exit the vehicle quickly** once it stops (book bags on, lunch box/water bottle in hand, phones/tablets put away, etc.). Students should be exiting vehicles using the **entire length of the Unloading Zone**. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure our car line runs safely and smoothly.

WELLNESS CHALLENGE – GO UNPLUGGED!



Encourage your **family to unplug** from television, video games, phones and social media. Try a weekly challenge such as “no text Tuesday” or “phone free Friday” and ask everyone to **turn off their phones** at the dinner table each night. During this free time, try doing something **outdoors**, visiting the **library**, or reading a **book**.

Please remember to fill out your background application if you wish to **VOLUNTEER IN THE SCHOOL** or on field trips. Volunteer Link [Here](#).



Notes from Mr. O'Hara Assistant Principal

sean.o'hara@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Safety–Testing–Bus Info

BUSES



- Ensuring **bus safety is paramount**. Please discuss with your children the importance of remaining seated and keeping their voice level down while on the bus. It is crucial that the bus driver's full attention remains on the road to ensure everyone's safety.
- A bus evacuation **drill was held on October 14th** in the Bus Lot behind the school. This drill was conducted by our teachers in collaboration with the bus department to ensure students know how to exit the bus during an emergency.



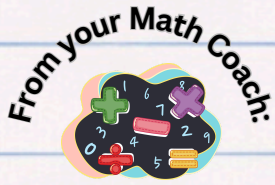
COMPUTERS

- Please ensure that students are **accessing appropriate websites**. I address this issue daily with students, emphasizing the importance of not visiting inappropriate sites or using their computers late at night. School computers are intended **solely for educational activities**.



TESTING

- Second graders will be participating in the **CogAT/IOWA testing** during the weeks of **October 13th and 20th**. This assessment is a state-wide gifted and talented identification screener. Results will be shared in January.
- The next **iReady testing** window will commence on **December 2nd**.
- **SC Ready Score Reports** will be distributed with **Quarter 1 Report Cards**.



We're starting off the year strong with our **Reflex Math Contest**, and students have two possible ways to win! The homeroom at each grade level with the Highest **Average Fluency will win a pizza party!** In addition, three students who have achieved **100% fluency** will be chosen at random to win **Clue Jr.!**

You can help your students by making sure they are working on Reflex Math, a fact-fluency computer app, each night for about **15 minutes**. Research has shown that students do better in math if they have quick recall of their facts, and Reflex Math is a great resource to help your **child practice math facts** in a fun, engaging way at home. Your student can access **Reflex through Classlink** on their computers or at [Reflexmath.com](https://www.reflexmath.com) on any computer, tablet, or phone.

If you do not have your student's **login** information, please reach out to their homeroom teacher. Each time your student logs in, it helps their class increase its average fluency! **Contest runs to December 3.**



Please encourage your children to **read each night!** All HHIE students have received an **Otters Read folder** for students to bring home books.

The **SERG** Star Reading Challenge is a great way for students to earn prizes for their reading, all students received Reading Log 1 from school. The challenge runs through the end of the month.

On average, **reading 10 minutes** a night equates to roughly 1 million more words a year! So a kid who reads an additional **20 minutes** a night will read **20 million more words** between kindergarten and high school.

Our **i-Ready Reading Competition** is in full swing, congratulations to Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Quigley, Ms. Townsend, and Ms. Melendez's classes on reaching the **Principal's Palace!** Students should be completing at least **2 reading i-Ready lessons each week.**



Thank you for your support to **grow our students** as readers and thinkers!



Congratulations to our August & September character education winners!



August - Friendship & Kindness

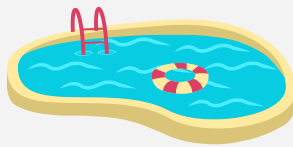
1st Grade: Carla Torres Zavaleta (Andreio)
2nd Grade: Levi Padgett (Urys)
3rd Grade: Ivan Caminos (Williams)
4th Grade: Hanna Hernandez (Robertson)
5th Grade: Dylan Bracamontes (Lomasney)

September - Acceptance

1st Grade: Lacey Thorton (Sturman)
2nd Grade: Dee Unkaew (Hummel)
3rd Grade: Braden Breinich (Williams)
4th Grade: Lucy Norris (Olander)
5th Grade: Breythan Hernandez Blandon (Davis)

Student Council is up and running! They are currently taking **ACTION** by **recycling** each Tuesday and **raising and lowering the flags** every morning.

President, Piper Surlak Vice President, Annabelle Fernandez
Secretary, Venice Marquez Treasurer, Luna Muro Mendez



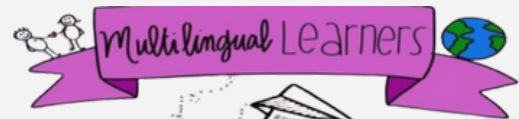
Physical Education

What a wonderful first quarter we have had with your students in Physical Education class!

Please remind students to wear tennis shoes/sneakers on their designated red and yellow PE days. Our 5th grade students recently completed Fitnessgram testing and are now setting personal goals. Other grade levels are working on demonstrating sportsmanship, participating in cooperative games, and practicing locomotor movements.



Looking ahead this school year, we are planning some special activities! These include swim lessons (2nd grade only), Active Gamecocks, Kids Heart Challenge, Clemson Extension Nutrition Program, Special Olympics and the Delta Dental Program. Please encourage your child to be physically active each day!



4th Grade with Ms. Krimm

This quarter, students have been learning about their native countries as well as the United States, exploring important American symbols such as the Statue of Liberty.

They also continued to work on their All About Me booklets by writing and illustrating pages about themselves, their families, school, friends, and favorite activities.

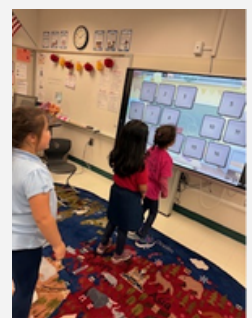
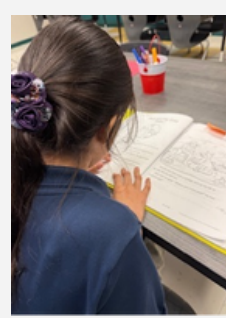
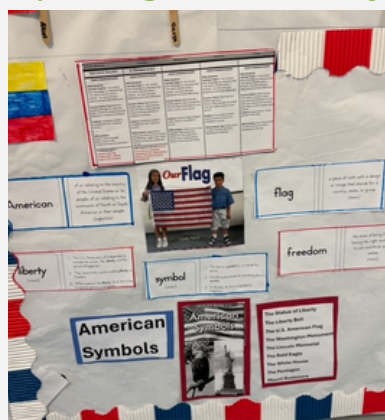
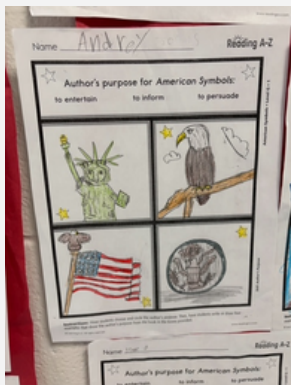
Students are enjoying expressing their creativity through writing!

This quarter in Ms. Pedroso's 2nd Grade group, MLP students have been exploring main ideas and details in informational texts through i-Ready Literacy.

They have engaged in hands-on activities like sorting idea and detail cards, creating and answering questions with classmates, and using BrainPOP quizzes to strengthen comprehension.

In Writing, students crafted stories inspired by various texts, including the personal narrative My Best Day Ever, the fiction story The Hot Surprise, and a biography of George Washington Carver.

These activities make learning both meaningful and fun.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER FOR FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival Event – Please consider volunteering an hour of your time on October 24th to help ensure our Fall Festival is a success! Click the link below to see all the different ways to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ACA92DA3FCC34-52035738-fall>

Haunted House – Ms. Ashton also needs help with her Haunted House for Fall Festival! She is looking for people to help with set up, decorating, and participating the night of October 24th from 5-7. There are opportunities all week long (Oct 20th-24th 3:45-5:30) leading up to the event. Any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated! Feel free to share with any high school students that may need service hours. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4EA8AE2DAAFF2-51951398-haunted#/>

Community Partners – We would love to have you join us for our upcoming Fall Festival, October 24th from 5-7pm. We are looking for a variety of organizations/businesses to host a table in our yellow gym where students can trick or treat. The table would need to be decorated and each organization/business would bring their own candy to pass out. If you want to dress up in costume that would be even more fun, but no pressure! Please feel free to bring your signage and any flyers or information you would like to share with our families. Please let us know if you want to participate by October 14th. michele.dewan@beaufort.k12.sc.us

HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

Fall Festival

PRIZES • HAUNTED HOUSE • GAMES



CARNIVAL GAMES
BASKETBALL & SOCCER
CHALLENGE
DRESS LIKE A MUMMY

HAUNTED HOUSE
YELLOW GYM

CUPCAKE DECORATING \$1
PIZZA \$2 / WATER \$1
FACE PAINTING
POPCORN & COTTON CANDY

SPIRIT GEAR & NEW
T-SHIRTS ON SALE!



FRIDAY OCT 24 5-7PM
\$5 ADMISSION FOR KIDS - CASH ONLY

CARNIVAL FUN WITH MATH & READING GAMES

